

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 173534  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY D/LOS:FHODSOLL:MS  
APPROVED BY D:DABRIZILL  
S/S-O:AWOTTO

-----070868 252023Z /65

O 252005Z JUL 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173534

NODIS  
-STADIS FOR DEPUTY SECY CHRISTOPHER ONLY FROM BRIZILL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), PFOR

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE - SITREP

1. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S PUBLIC LOS STATEMENT JULY 20 WAS CLEARED BY SECRETARY AND FOLLOWED PRIVATE LETTER TO AMERASINGHE IN WHICH AMERASINGHE WAS INFORMED THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SUCH A STATEMENT IF THE SEABEDS TEXT NEGOTIATED AT THE SIXTH LOS CONFERENCE SESSION WERE CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY. IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CHANGES MADE TO THE TEXT, IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE STATEMENT IN ORDER TO (A) DISCREDIT THE TEXT, AND (B) ENCOURAGE PRO-CEDURAL REFORM AT THE CONFERENCE.

2. FOR THE FUTURE, THE ONLY PLAUSIBLE POSSIBILITY IS FOR AMERASINGHE, AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, TO TAKE OVER THE SEABEDS NEGOTIATIONS IN PLENARY -- THUS AVOIDING CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES WITH COMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN ENGO. ANY EFFORT  
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OF THIS KIND WILL NEED TO BE ENGINEERED IN A WAY THAT AVOIDS CONFRONTATION WITH OTHER AFRICANS AND G-77 SUPPORT FOR ENGO.

3. REGARDING US VIEWS ON FUTURE OF LOS, WE ARE CURRENTLY BEGINNING COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW. WE MUST BE CAREFUL PUBLICLY NOT TO SUGGEST WHERE THE REVIEW MIGHT COME OUT.

NEVERTHELESS, WHILE RICHARDSON'S VIEWS HAVE NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED WITHIN USG OTHER THAN WITH THE SECRETARY, IT IS HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT WE MUST FIND A WAY TO SOLVE THE ENGO PROCEDURAL PROBLEM AND AVOID A BREAKDOWN OF THE LOS CONFERENCE WITH ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS THAT GO BEYOND LOS. AT THE SAME TIME, OUR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSTURE IS AN HONEST REVIEW IN APPEARANCE AND FACT. THIS REVIEW WILL PER FORCE ADDRESS, INTER ALIA, THE SUBSTANCE AND TIMING OF SEABED LEGISLATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** HR IS ALSO STADIS  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, PEPR, PGOV, PLOS, US, NZ, (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)  
**To:** WELLINGTON  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009